



## SONDHEIM'S *SWEENEY TODD*

Links to resources and lesson plans related to Sondheim's musical thriller, *Sweeney Todd*.

### **Academy of Achievement: Stephen Sondheim**

<http://www.achievement.org/autodoc/page/son0int-1>

Sondheim profile, biography and interview with photo gallery

### **Broadway World: Sondheim Review Presents – Ghosts of Sweeney Todd**

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/broadway/shows/show-boat/>

Essay on the adaptation of *Sweeney Todd* from the stage to the screen by Paul M. Puccio for The Sondheim Review (Spring 2009).

### **English National Opera: Sweeney Todd – Show History**

<http://www.sweeneytodd.co.uk/show-history/>

The history of Sweeney Todd productions, with a special eye to London.

### **Houston Grand Opera: *Codifying a Killer: Who— and What —Is Sweeney Todd?***

[https://www.houstongrandopera.org/spring\\_opera\\_cues\\_2015/index.html](https://www.houstongrandopera.org/spring_opera_cues_2015/index.html)

Musical or Opera? Mad Man or Bad Man? Houston Grand Opera's dramaturg Paul Hopper on *Sweeney Todd*.

### **Houston Grand Opera: *Sweeney Todd***

<https://youtu.be/nTEJLm7nLc>

Trailer for Houston Grand Opera's 2015 production of *Sweeney Todd*.

### **Internet Archive: *The String of Pearls***

[https://archive.org/details/stringofpearls\\_0809\\_librivox](https://archive.org/details/stringofpearls_0809_librivox)

Stream or download audio recording of *The String of Pearls* read by LibriVox. The 1846 serialized telling of the story titled "The String of Pearls" in the weekly magazine "The People's Periodical and Family Library" introduced the murderous Sweeney Todd.

### **Internet Archive: *Sweeney Todd: Live at the New York Philharmonic (2000 New York concert cast)***

<https://archive.org/details/mbid-5c071e3f-37db-43bf-99e5-1f61315c3791>

Album cover art.

### **Internet Archive: *Sweeney Todd The Demon Barber of Fleet Street – 1980***

<https://archive.org/details/SweeneyToddTheDemonBarberOfFleetStreet-1980-AngelaLansburyLen>

Rare live video of the original Broadway production, starring Len Cariou and Angela Lansbury.

### **The Kennedy Center: The Sondheim Celebration**

<http://www.kennedy-center.org/explorer/interactives/sondheim/index.cfm>

In 2002, Kennedy Center hosted an unprecedented look into the mind of a modern genius by exploring the works of Stephen Sondheim through the *Sondheim Celebration*.

### **Kickstarter: *Sweeney Todd at Harrington's Pie and Mash Shop in Tooting!***

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1369684151/sweeney-todd-at-harringtons-pie-and-mash-shop-in-t>

Kickstarter pitch for a pop-up production of *Sweeney Todd* set in a pie shop.

**Lincoln Center Videos: *Sweeney Todd: Opera or Musical?***

<https://youtu.be/nTEJlLm7nLc>

Is Stephen Sondheim's "*Sweeney Todd*" an opera or a musical? Bass-baritone Bryn Terfel explains the dilemma.

**Lincoln Center Videos: *Sondheim in the House***

<https://youtu.be/8BfyOWSDDt4>

Watch what happened when Stephen Sondheim surprised Bryn Terfel, Christian Borle, Philip Quast, and the rest of the cast of "*Sweeney Todd*" by attending the performance. Plus, hear how he coached them in their roles.

**Masterworks Broadway: *Sweeney Todd – Original Broadway Cast Recording 1979***

<http://masterworksbroadway.com/music/sweeney-todd-original-broadway-cast-recording-1979/>

Listen to musical recordings with Spotify, with photos of the 1979 OBC cast album recording session. Video interview with Angela Lansbury on recording *Sweeney Todd*.

**Musical Theatre International (MTI): *Sweeney Todd***

[http://www.mtishows.com/show\\_detail.asp?showid=000075](http://www.mtishows.com/show_detail.asp?showid=000075)

Synopsis, show billing, resources, materials, casting, additional facts with a listing of forthcoming productions.

**New York Philharmonic: Notes on the Program: *Sweeney Todd***

<http://nyphil.org/~media/pdfs/program-notes/1314/Sondheim-Sweeney%20Todd.pdf>

Program notes for 2014 concert with the NY Philharmonic by program annotator James M. Keller.

**New York Public Library Digital Collections: Martha Swope Photographs**

<http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/collections/martha-swope-photographs>

Search "*Sweeney Todd*" for photos of the original Broadway production.

**New York Times: Grand Guignol, Spare and Stark**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/11/04/theater/reviews/grand-guignol-spare-and-stark.html>

New York Times review of the 2005 production directed by John Doyle, featured performers playing instruments.

**New York Times: Châtelet's '*Sweeney Todd*' Stays True to Detailed Musical Roots**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/04/arts/04iht-loomis04.html>

New York Times review of the Châtelet's 2011 production directed by Lee Blakeley

**NPR: Intersections: Inspiration and Creativity**

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1583370>

A Look at Famous Artists and Their Debts to Their Colleagues. Herrmann's influence on Sondheim can be heard in the latter's musical *Sweeney Todd*.

**Opera News: *Sweeney Todd* at Houston Grand Opera**

[http://www.operanews.com/Opera\\_News\\_Magazine/2015/7/Reviews/HOUSTON\\_Sweeney\\_Todd.html](http://www.operanews.com/Opera_News_Magazine/2015/7/Reviews/HOUSTON_Sweeney_Todd.html)

Review of Houston Grand Opera's 2015 production of *Sweeney Todd*.

**PBS / KQED: *Sweeney Todd - The Demon Barber of Fleet Street***

<http://www.pbs.org/kqed/demonbarber/index.html>

Website developed for SF Symphony concert production, featuring George Hearn and Patty Lupone. Premiered on October 21, 2001.

**PBS Newshour: National Recording Registry reaches 400 entries as Library of Congress adds 25 recordings**

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/national-recording-registry-reaches-400-library-congress-adds-25-pieces/>

The original Broadway cast album of *Sweeney Todd* was inducted in 2014. Sound recordings chosen for the National Recording Registry, according to the Library of Congress, are selected to “be preserved as cultural, artistic and/or historical treasures, representing the richness and diversity of the American soundscape.”

**Penguin Active Reading: *Sweeney Todd* Teacher’s notes**

<http://www.penguinreaders.com/pdf/downloads/par/teachers-notes/TN-SweeneyTodd.pdf>

Notes and discussion activities for the novel.

**People Archive: If Success Goes to Their Craniums, There's Room**

<http://www.people.com/people/archive/article/0,,20075799,00.html>

Designers Eugene and Fanne Lee designed the sets and costumes for the original Broadway production of *Sweeney Todd* and for Saturday Night Live.

**Playbill: Stephen Sondheim Writes Letter to Cast of *Sweeney Todd*, Whose School Production Was Almost Canceled**

<http://www.playbill.com/news/article/stephen-sondheim-writes-letter-to-cast-of-sweeney-todd-whose-school-production-was-almost-canceled-348817>

Sondheim writes a thank you letter to the theatre teacher, cast, crew and supporters of Timberlane Regional School’s successful social media campaign to reinstate their production of *Sweeney Todd* after a censorship battle with the district superintendent.

**Portland Opera: *Sweeney Todd* Rental Brief**

<http://www.portlandopera.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Sweeney-Todd-Rental-Brief.pdf>

Rental information and costume photos.

**Samuel French: Christopher Bond’s *Sweeney Todd***

<http://www.samuel french.com/p/1746/sweeney-todd-the-demon-barber-of-fleet-street-bond>

Read an excerpt from the play written by Christopher Bond, first presented by the Theatre Workshop at the Theatre Royal, Stratford, London.

**San Francisco Opera: *Sweeney Todd***

<http://sfopera.com/Season-Tickets/2015-16-Season/Sweeney-Todd.aspx>

*Sweeney Todd* overview, synopsis, production photos and audio excerpts.

**San Francisco Opera: *Sweeney Todd* Synopsis Teaser**

<https://youtu.be/B6jqnCC-N2w>

Video clip via YouTube. A bloody good story. A wronged barber exiled by a corrupt judge returns to Dickensian London to quench his thirst for vengeance in Stephen Sondheim’s macabre musical thriller.

**Scribd: *Sweeney Todd* Libretto**

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/149287858/Sweeney-Todd>

**Sondheim.com: The Works: Sweeney Todd**

[http://sondheim.com/works/sweeney\\_todd/](http://sondheim.com/works/sweeney_todd/)

Show Data, Cast Recordings, Awards.

**Sondheim teaches 'My Friends' from Sweeney Todd**

<https://youtu.be/DBCVaFqGJwg>

Via AllanWo's YouTube Channel. Master Class with Sondheim teaching Guildhall School students.

**Stephen Sondheim Society**

<http://sondheim.org/>

A registered charity based in the UK, set up to study, appreciate, and celebrate the works of composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim.

**The Stephen Sondheim Reference Guide: Sweeney Todd**

<http://www.sondheimguide.com/sweeney.html>

Listing of Sweeney Todd productions.

**Sweeney Todd Original 1979 Broadway Musical Commercial**

<https://youtu.be/90vBH847AD4>

Via Las Vegas Review YouTube Channel. Commercial for the original 1979 Broadway production.

**Tooting Arts Club: The History of Harrington's**

<http://www.tootingartsclub.co.uk/history-of-harringtons/>

In the winter of 2014, Tooting Arts Club staged Stephen Sondheim's masterpiece Sweeney Todd in London's oldest pie and mash shop. The History of Harrington's Pie and Mash, number 3 Selkirk Road, Tooting.

**The University of Pittsburgh: Sweeney Todd: Making Meat Pies (recipe and video)**

<http://www.play.pitt.edu/blog/sweeney-todd-making-meat-pies-recipe-and-video>

Pitt Rep students teach how to make an authentic English meat pie with recipe.

**NPR / WBR: Sondheim & Co., Taking 'Todd' from Stage to Screen**

<http://www.wbur.org/npr/17411700>

How exactly does a movie studio attract audiences to see a Tim Burton-Johnny Depp musical that's filled with violence, blood and cannibalism? Producer Richard D. Zanuck says you just appeal to their curiosity.

**YouTube**

<http://www.youtube.com/>

There are many video clips of various movie versions of *Sweeney Todd* and other operas and musicals that can be viewed on YouTube.